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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT Sanatoriums/and Rest Homes/Admittance Documents/People Who Frequent Them/Procedure for Admittance/Sanatoriums Directly Subordinated to Moscow.

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

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| CD NO. | |
| OO/C NO. | |
| ORR NO. | |
| DAS NO. | |
| OCI NO. | |

DATE DISTR. 28 Oct 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. "By superficially glancing through Soviet papers, one may get the impression that all workers enjoy holidays in sanatoriums and rest homes. Actually, however, the sanatoriums and rest homes are frequented by higher functionaries, writers, actors and a few Stakhanovite workers.
2. "The procedure of admittance into a sanatorium is as follows:

The trade union of every enterprise tries to procure admittance documents for its members to be paid out of the sums provided for social insurance in the budget. These admittance documents are of two kinds: Free of charge and those for which the recipient has to pay a certain percentage of the costs. [Note - Only minors and students at industrial and technical schools are treated free of charge]
3. "On an average, a sanatorium costs 1,000 rubles for 30 days of which the recipient has to pay 30 per cent, or 300 rubles.
4. "The workers who are in need of treatment in a sanatorium apply to the district physician who sends them with an appropriate document (the selection card) to the Commission of Sanatoriums and Health Resorts (SKK), with a selection card containing all the necessary data about the state of their health. If the Commission considers that treatment in a sanatorium is necessary, it issues a certificate which makes it possible to apply for an admittance document to a sanatorium. The worker has to submit the Commission's certificate to his trade union committee which procures an admittance document from the republican trade union committee.
5. "The trade union, grants these admittance documents just to exemplary workers, ie workers who have worked at the same enterprise for a long time, This shows how difficult it is to procure an admittance document into a sanatorium. Moreover, an ordinary worker cannot afford to pay 300 rubles for

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his month at the sanatorium, plus his railway ticket.

6. "The Estonian SSR sanatoriums are subordinated directly to Moscow to the Administration of Sanatoriums and Rest Houses at the All-Union Trade Union Council which distributes admittance documents to the trade union councils of the constituent republics".
7. "Proof that the sanatoriums are only available for high-salaried individuals and that corruption is high in this regard can be obtained from Soviet official publications and newspapers. RAHVA HAAL, the organ of the CC [Central Committee] of the Estonian CP [Communist Party] reports on 20 Feb 54:

'...At the conference of the workers' trade union of the consumer and industrial goods industry, Comrade ALEKSANDROVA reported on the unsatisfactory medical service in the KREENHOLMI MANUFAKTUUR (The KREENHOLM Textile Mill at NARVA). She quoted examples of how the head bookkeeper and the chief engineer from the leading personnel receive medical treatment at a sanatorium twice yearly while a number of workers who are in urgent need of treatment at a sanatorium cannot get it.....'

8. "The number of sanatoriums in the USSR is small and treatment at them is very much sought after. Even the small Estonian sanatoriums are in very great demand in the USSR. Thus SOVIETSKAIA ESTONIA of 29 Apr 54 reports:

'.....The PARNU health resort of the All-Union Trade Union Council is well known all over the USSR. Workers from the UKRAINE, the URALS, the Far East, the KOLA Peninsula, and from all territories of the USSR come here to rest and improve their health.....'

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